



## **Vacation Home Security Preparation**

Before you head out of town, here are some ways you can increase your home's security levels:

- Make your home look as though you are there, even when you're not. If you have lights on in certain rooms when you are home, set up timers for those lights while you're away.
- Set timers on your television or radios to go on and off at different times.
- Make sure the locks on your home are of good quality and are functioning properly.
- Lock all doors and windows prior to leaving.
- Do Not leave a key hidden outside your home.
- Do Not leave outdoor lights on twenty-four hours a day. You don't do this when you are home, so doing it when you are gone is a dead giveaway that the house is vacant.
- Make sure your outside lights are functional.
- Let a trusted friend or neighbor know that you are leaving and have them keep an eye on your home. If you have pets, ask if your neighbor/friends can look after them at your home instead of boarding them. A person coming and going from your home is a deterrent and adds to the appearance that you are home.
- Make sure to leave emergency contact numbers with your caretaker, just in case.
- If you have an alarm system, make sure your caretaker knows how to use the alarm and how to communicate with the alarm company.

A Crime Prevention Officer can perform a free Home Security Inspection on your home. Just call MPO Clift at the Mount Vernon District Station at 703-360-8400 ext 2259 or e-mail [Robert.clift@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Robert.clift@fairfaxcounty.gov)



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